

Honorable Barbara J. Rothstein

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
WESTERN DISTRICT OF WASHINGTON
AT TACOMA

PATRICK G. GARLOCK and LARENE M.
GARLOCK, husband and wife; and MICHAEL
H. JENNINGS, JR. and NANCY A.
JENNINGS, husband and wife,

NO. 3:22-cv-05108-BJR

Plaintiffs,

STIPULATED PROTECTIVE ORDER

v.

OPTIMISCORP, a Delaware corporation,

Defendants.

1. PURPOSES AND LIMITATIONS

Discovery in this action is likely to involve production of confidential, proprietary, or private information for which special protection may be warranted. Accordingly, the parties hereby stipulate to and petition the court to enter the following Stipulated Protective Order. The parties acknowledge that this agreement is consistent with LCR 26(c). It does not confer blanket protection on all disclosures or responses to discovery, the protection it affords from public disclosure and use extends only to the limited information or items that are entitled to

1 confidential treatment under the applicable legal principles, and it does not presumptively
2 entitle parties to file confidential information under seal.
3

4 2. “CONFIDENTIAL” MATERIAL

5 “Confidential” material shall include the following documents and tangible things
6 produced or otherwise exchanged:
7

- 8 • Company financial statements;
- 9 • Company documents containing company owned trade secrets or proprietary
information pertaining to company owned technology or strategies;
- 10 • Company client lists; and
- 11 • Company formation and management documents and proprietary meeting
minutes.

12 3. SCOPE

13 The protections conferred by this agreement cover not only confidential material (as
14 defined above), but also (1) any information copied or extracted from confidential material; (2)
15 all copies, excerpts, summaries, or compilations of confidential material; and (3) any testimony,
16 conversations, or presentations by parties or their counsel that might reveal confidential
17 material.
18

19 However, the protections conferred by this agreement do not cover information that is
20 in the public domain or becomes part of the public domain through trial or otherwise.
21

22 4. ACCESS TO AND USE OF CONFIDENTIAL MATERIAL

23 4.1 Basic Principles. A receiving party may use confidential material that is disclosed
24 or produced by another party or by a non-party in connection with this case only for prosecuting,
25 defending, or attempting to settle this litigation. Confidential material may be disclosed only to
26 the categories of persons and under the conditions described in this agreement. Confidential

1 material must be stored and maintained by a receiving party at a location and in a secure manner
2 that ensures that access is limited to the persons authorized under this agreement.
3

4 4.2 Disclosure of “CONFIDENTIAL” Information or Items. Unless otherwise ordered
5 by the court or permitted in writing by the designating party, a receiving party may disclose any
6 confidential material only to:

7 (a) the receiving party’s counsel of record in this action, as well as employees of counsel
8 to whom it is reasonably necessary to disclose the information for this litigation;

9 (b) the officers, directors, and employees (including in house counsel) of the receiving
10 party to whom disclosure is reasonably necessary for this litigation, unless the parties agree that
11 a particular document or material produced is for Attorney’s Eyes Only and is so designated;

12 (c) experts and consultants to whom disclosure is reasonably necessary for this litigation
13 and who have signed the “Acknowledgment and Agreement to Be Bound” (Exhibit A);

14 (d) the court, court personnel, and court reporters and their staff; (e) copy or imaging
15 services retained by counsel to assist in the duplication of confidential material, provided that
16 counsel for the party retaining the copy or imaging service instructs the service not to disclose
17 any confidential material to third parties and to immediately return all originals and copies of
18 any confidential material;

19 (f) during their depositions, witnesses in the action to whom disclosure is reasonably
20 necessary and who have signed the “Acknowledgment and Agreement to Be Bound” (Exhibit
21 A), unless otherwise agreed by the designating party or ordered by the court. Pages of
22 transcribed deposition testimony or exhibits to depositions that reveal confidential material
23 must be separately bound by the court reporter and may not be disclosed to anyone except as
24 permitted under this agreement;
25

1 (g) the author or recipient of a document containing the information or a custodian or
 2 other person who otherwise possessed or knew the information.
 3

4 4.3 Filing Confidential Material. Before filing confidential material or discussing or
 5 referencing such material in court filings, the filing party shall confer with the designating party,
 6 in accordance with Local Civil Rule 5(g)(3)(A), to determine whether the designating party will
 7 remove the confidential designation, whether the document can be redacted, or whether a
 8 motion to seal or stipulation and proposed order is warranted. During the meet and confer
 9 process, the designating party must identify the basis for sealing the specific confidential
 10 information at issue, and the filing party shall include this basis in its motion to seal, along with
 11 any objection to sealing the information at issue. Local Civil Rule 5(g) sets forth the procedures
 12 that must be followed and the standards that will be applied when a party seeks permission from
 13 the court to file material under seal. A party who seeks to maintain the confidentiality of its
 14 information must satisfy the requirements of Local Civil Rule 5(g)(3)(B), even if it is not the
 15 party filing the motion to seal. Failure to satisfy this requirement will result in the motion to
 16 seal being denied, in accordance with the strong presumption of public access to the Court's
 17 files.
 18

19 5. DESIGNATING PROTECTED MATERIAL

20 5.1 Exercise of Restraint and Care in Designating Material for Protection. Each party or
 21 non-party that designates information or items for protection under this agreement must take
 22 care to limit any such designation to specific material that qualifies under the appropriate
 23 standards. The designating party must designate for protection only those parts of material,
 24 documents, items, or oral or written communications that qualify, so that other portions of the
 25 material, documents, items, or communications for which protection is not warranted are not
 26 swept unjustifiably within the ambit of this agreement. Mass, indiscriminate, or routinized

1 designations are prohibited. Designations that are shown to be clearly unjustified or that have
2 been made for an improper purpose (e.g., to unnecessarily encumber or delay the case
3 development process or to impose unnecessary expenses and burdens on other parties) expose
4 the designating party to sanctions. If it comes to a designating party's attention that information
5 or items that it designated for protection do not qualify for protection, the designating party
6 must promptly notify all other parties that it is withdrawing the mistaken designation.
7

8 5.2 Manner and Timing of Designations. Except as otherwise provided in this agreement
9 (see, e.g., second paragraph of section 5.2(b) below), or as otherwise stipulated or ordered,
10 disclosure or discovery material that qualifies for protection under this agreement must be
11 clearly so designated before or when the material is disclosed or produced.

12 (a) Information in documentary form: (e.g., paper or electronic documents and
13 deposition exhibits, but excluding transcripts of depositions or other pretrial or trial
14 proceedings), the designating party must affix the word "CONFIDENTIAL" to each page that
15 contains confidential material. If only a portion or portions of the material on a page qualifies
16 for protection, the producing party also must clearly identify the protected portion(s) (e.g., by
17 making appropriate markings in the margins).

18 (b) Testimony given in deposition or in other pretrial proceedings: the parties and any
19 participating non-parties must identify on the record, during the deposition or other pretrial
20 proceeding, all protected testimony, without prejudice to their right to so designate other
21 testimony after reviewing the transcript. Any party or non-party may, within fifteen days after
22 receiving the transcript of the deposition or other pretrial proceeding, designate portions of the
23 transcript, or exhibits thereto, as confidential. If a party or non-party desires to protect
24 confidential information at trial, the issue should be addressed during the pre-trial conference.
25
26

(c) Other tangible items: the producing party must affix in a prominent place on the exterior of the container or containers in which the information or item is stored the word "CONFIDENTIAL." If only a portion or portions of the information or item warrant protection, the producing party, to the extent practicable, shall identify the protected portion(s).

5.3 Inadvertent Failures to Designate. If timely corrected, an inadvertent failure to designate qualified information or items does not, standing alone, waive the designating party's right to secure protection under this agreement for such material. Upon timely correction of a designation, the receiving party must make reasonable efforts to ensure that the material is treated in accordance with the provisions of this agreement.

6. CHALLENGING CONFIDENTIALITY DESIGNATIONS

6.1 Timing of Challenges. Any party or non-party may challenge a designation of confidentiality at any time. Unless a prompt challenge to a designating party's confidentiality designation is necessary to avoid foreseeable, substantial unfairness, unnecessary economic burdens, or a significant disruption or delay of the litigation, a party does not waive its right to challenge a confidentiality designation by electing not to mount a challenge promptly after the original designation is disclosed.

6.2 Meet and Confer. The parties must make every attempt to resolve any dispute regarding confidential designations without court involvement. Any motion regarding confidential designations or for a protective order must include a certification, in the motion or in a declaration or affidavit, that the movant has engaged in a good faith meet and confer conference with other affected parties in an effort to resolve the dispute without court action. The certification must list the date, manner, and participants to the conference. A good faith effort to confer requires a face-to-face meeting or a telephone conference.

1 6.3 Judicial Intervention. If the parties cannot resolve a challenge without court
 2 intervention, the designating party may file and serve a motion to retain confidentiality under
 3 Local Civil Rule 7 (and in compliance with Local Civil Rule 5(g), if applicable). The burden of
 4 persuasion in any such motion shall be on the designating party. Frivolous challenges, and those
 5 made for an improper purpose (e.g., to harass or impose unnecessary expenses and burdens on
 6 other parties) may expose the challenging party to sanctions. All parties shall continue to
 7 maintain the material in question as confidential until the court rules on the challenge.

8

9. PROTECTED MATERIAL SUBPOENAED OR ORDERED PRODUCED IN OTHER
 10 LITIGATION

11 If a party is served with a subpoena or a court order issued in other litigation that
 12 compels disclosure of any information or items designated in this action as
 13 “CONFIDENTIAL,” that party must:

14 (a) promptly notify the designating party in writing and include a copy of the subpoena
 15 or court order;

16 (b) promptly notify in writing the party who caused the subpoena or order to issue in
 17 the other litigation that some or all of the material covered by the subpoena or order is subject
 18 to this agreement. Such notification shall include a copy of this agreement; and

20 (c) cooperate with respect to all reasonable procedures sought to be pursued by the
 21 designating party whose confidential material may be affected.

22. UNAUTHORIZED DISCLOSURE OF PROTECTED MATERIAL

23 If a receiving party learns that, by inadvertence or otherwise, it has disclosed
 24 confidential material to any person or in any circumstance not authorized under this agreement,
 25 the receiving party must immediately (a) notify in writing the designating party of the
 26 unauthorized disclosures, (b) use its best efforts to retrieve all unauthorized copies of the

1 protected material, (c) inform the person or persons to whom unauthorized disclosures were
 2 made of all the terms of this agreement, and (d) request that such person or persons execute the
 3 “Acknowledgment and Agreement to Be Bound” that is attached hereto as Exhibit A.

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5 9. INADVERTENT PRODUCTION OF PRIVILEGED OR OTHERWISE PROTECTED
 6 MATERIAL

7 When a producing party gives notice to receiving parties that certain inadvertently
 8 produced material is subject to a claim of privilege or other protection, the obligations of the
 9 receiving parties are those set forth in Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 26(b)(5)(B). This
 10 provision is not intended to modify whatever procedure may be established in an e-discovery
 11 order or agreement that provides for production without prior privilege review. The parties
 12 agree to the entry of a non-waiver order under Fed. R. Evid. 502(d) as set forth herein.

13 10. NON TERMINATION AND RETURN OF DOCUMENTS

14 Within 60 days after the termination of this action, including all appeals, each receiving
 15 party must return all confidential material to the producing party, including all copies, extracts
 16 and summaries thereof. Alternatively, the parties may agree upon appropriate methods of
 17 destruction.

18 Notwithstanding this provision, counsel are entitled to retain one archival copy of all
 19 documents filed with the court, trial, deposition, and hearing transcripts, correspondence,
 20 deposition and trial exhibits, expert reports, attorney work product, and consultant and expert
 21 work product, even if such materials contain confidential material.

22 The confidentiality obligations imposed by this agreement shall remain in effect until a
 23 designating party agrees otherwise in writing or a court orders otherwise.

24 The undersigned each confirm that the content of this Stipulated Motion is acceptable
 25 and have provided authorization for their respective signatures.

1 RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED this 23rd day of March.
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4
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1 PURSUANT TO STIPULATION, IT IS SO ORDERED
2
3

4 IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that pursuant to Fed. R. Evid. 502(d), the production of
5 any documents in this proceeding shall not, for the purposes of this proceeding or any other
6 federal or state proceeding, constitute a waiver by the producing party of any privilege
7 applicable to those documents, including the attorney-client privilege, attorney work-product
protection, or any other privilege or protection recognized by law.

8 DATED: March 24, 2023
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10


Barbara Jacobs Rothstein
U.S. District Court Judge

EXHIBIT A

ACKNOWLEDGMENT AND AGREEMENT TO BE BOUND

I, _____ [print or type full name], of _____ [print or type full address], declare under penalty of perjury that I have read in its entirety and understand the Stipulated Protective Order that was issued by the United States District Court for the Western District of Washington on _____ in the case of *Garlock, et al. v. OptimisCorp*, Case No. 3:22-cv-05108-BJR. I agree to comply with and to be bound by all the terms of this Stipulated Protective Order and I understand and acknowledge that failure to so comply could expose me to sanctions and punishment in the nature of contempt. I solemnly promise that I will not disclose in any manner any information or item that is subject to this Stipulated Protective Order to any person or entity except in strict compliance with the provisions of this Order. I further agree to submit to the jurisdiction of the United States District Court for the Western District of Washington for the purpose of enforcing the terms of this Stipulated Protective Order, even if such enforcement proceedings occur after termination of this action.

Date:

City and State where sworn and signed: _____

Printed name: _____

Signature: _____